

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 11 and 15 and include newly added claim 24 as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) In a knotting device including a knotting assembly having a gripper for selectively gripping one of two adjacent wire sections, a rotatable knoter operable to twist-knot the two adjacent wire sections, a cutting element for cutting of the other of said adjacent wire sections after twist-knotting of the sections and a shiftable cover located adjacent said knoter for maintaining the wire sections within the knoter during feeding said twist-knotting and thereafter movable to a wire-clearing position permitting passage of the twist-knotted wire sections from the knoter, the improvement which comprises an operator assembly for timed operation of said gripper, knoter, cutting element and cover, and a single drive assembly coupled with said operator assembly for effecting said timed operation,

said operator assembly including a pivotal shaft assembly and elongated operator bodies, with each of the operator bodies being operably coupled with a respective one of said gripper, knoter, cutting element and cover so as to supply driving power from the single drive assembly thereto,

said operator bodies each projecting radially from and being fixed to the shaft assembly such that rotational movement of the shaft assembly causes the operator bodies to swing about a shaft axis,

said shaft assembly effecting said timed operation by rotating in a single direction about the shaft axis,

each of said operator bodies including an interacting element associated therewith,

said interacting element being drivingly connected to a respective one of the gripper, knotter, cutting element, and cover wherein swinging of the operator bodies in the single direction effects said timed operation.

12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, said drive assembly comprising a piston and cylinder assembly including a reciprocal piston rod operably connected with said shaft assembly.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, said cover attached to a mount for pivotal movement of the cover between said wire-maintaining position and said wire-clearing position, including a spring operably coupled with said cover mount for biasing the cover to said

wire-maintaining position thereof, said cover operator body configured to engage said cover mount to move the cover from said wire-maintaining position to said wire-clearing position.

15. (Currently Amended) In a knotting device including a knotting assembly having a gripper for selectively gripping one of two adjacent wire sections, a rotatable knoter operable to twist-knot the two adjacent wire sections, a cutting element for cutting of the other of said adjacent wire sections after twist-knotting of the sections and a shiftable cover located adjacent said knoter for maintaining the wire sections within the knoter during feeding said twist-knotting and thereafter movable to a wire-clearing position permitting passage of the twist-knotted wire sections from the knoter, the improvement which comprises an operator assembly for timed operation of said gripper, knoter, cutting element and cover, and a single drive assembly coupled with said operator assembly for effecting said timed operation,

~~said operator assembly including a pivotal shaft assembly carrying respective operator bodies for said gripper, knoter, cutting element and cover;~~

said operator assembly including a pivotal shaft assembly and elongated operator bodies, with each of the operator bodies being operably coupled with a respective one of said gripper, knoter, cutting element and cover so as to supply driving power from the single drive assembly thereto,

said operator bodies each projecting radially from and being fixed to the shaft assembly such that rotational movement of the shaft assembly causes the operator bodies to swing about a shaft axis,

said shaft assembly effecting said timed operation by rotating in a single direction about the shaft axis,

each of said operator bodies including an interacting element associated therewith,

said interacting element being drivingly connected to a respective one of the gripper, knotter, cutting element, and cover wherein swinging of the operator bodies in the single direction effects said timed operation,

said cover attached to a mount for pivotal movement of the cover between said wire-maintaining position and said wire-clearing position, including a spring operably coupled with said cover mount for biasing the cover to said wire-maintaining position thereof, said cover operator body configured to engage said cover mount to move the cover from said wire-maintaining position to said wire-clearing position,

said cover mount permitting selective pivoting of the cover from said wire-maintaining position to a remote knotter access position and through an arc of at least about 90°.

16. (Original) The device of claim 15, said spring acting to maintain said cover in said knotter access position.

17. (Original) The device of claim 15, said knotter rotatably mounted on an elongated support body, said body being selectively rotatable when said cover is in said knotter access position to a non-operative position permitting ready replacement or repair of the knotter.

18. (Original) The device of claim 17, including an upright frame member proximal to said knotter, said support body being releasably secured to said frame member and pivotal relative thereto to move the support body and knotter to said non-operative position.

19-23. (Canceled)

24. (New) The device of claim 11; further comprising
a gear drivingly connected to the knotter and rotatable about a gear axis spaced from the
pivotal shaft assembly,
at least one of said operator bodies being drivingly coupled to the gear.